

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically configuring devices in a network, comprising:

~~a)~~ the method associating preconfigured defined policy settings with physical locations in the network;

~~b)~~ automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network;~~and~~

determining a physical location of the new network device in the network; and

~~c)~~ automatically configuring the new network device based on the preconfigured policy settings associated with the ~~corresponding~~ physical location in the network.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~(a)~~ associating preconfigured policy settings with physical locations in the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the steps of: displaying a configuration screen that allows the user to create different policy settings that specify what configuration actions are to be taken.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~step (a)~~ associating preconfigured policy settings with physical locations in the network further ~~includes~~

~~comprises the steps of~~ saving the policy settings in a database.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a new network device is plugged into the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of: detecting and locating the network device by transmitting SNMP queries from a router to the a plurality of switches that traverse the network to detect when the new network device is plugged into the network.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically determining a physical location of the new network device in the network further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of determining which port on the network the new network device is plugged into.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a network device is plugged into the network further ~~comprises~~ includes the step of: detecting any combination of newly added devices including routers, switches, computers, and server blades.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein ~~step (b)~~ automatically detecting when a network device is plugged into the network further ~~comprises~~ includes the step of: detecting processor blades and switches added to existing server blades.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step (c)~~ automatically configuring the new network device based on the preconfigured policy settings associated